

## Fremont NH – 2008 Tax Rate Release Information

We are in receipt of the 2008 tax rate. The Selectmen's Office, with input from the Tax Collector, School, and Superintendent's Office, has prepared this information for you in an effort to assist in your understanding of the 2008 rate. The new tax rate, set by the NH Department of Revenue Administration on October 22, 2008 is \$22.56 per thousand. This breaks down as follows:

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Town	5.12	2.64	3.17	3.28	3.70
Local School	20.68	12.68	14.00	14.87	15.74
State School	4.28	2.28	2.26	2.20	2.22
County	1.48	0.85	0.84	0.88	0.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31.56</b>	<b>\$18.45</b>	<b>\$20.27</b>	<b>\$21.23</b>	<b>\$22.56</b>

Vast differences between 2004 and 2005 are due to the revaluation. In 2008 we are better able to look at the prior years (2005 through 2007) as landmarks. A key component to the annual setting of the tax rate is the total amount of town-wide assessed valuation. This is the total value of all taxable land and buildings in Fremont. These numbers have changed as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total Assessed Valuation	\$214,899,427	\$399,950,562	\$415,332,105	\$421,914,226	\$427,227,039

At Town Meeting, we had forecasted an approximate \$0.30 increase in the Town portion of the tax rate, and it calculated to \$0.42. Town expenses increased due to a 3% cost of living adjustment for employees, an increase in the trash contract and disposal costs, as well as some added maintenance items at town buildings. A warrant article passed for mosquito control for another year, and the harsh winter season also affected expenses and had to be amended at Town Meeting. The gross municipal appropriation increased by \$71,344 from 2007; but our revenues decreased (by \$124,002); and were less than originally anticipated. If you have specific questions about the Town's portion of the tax rate, they can be directed to the Selectmen's Office at the Town Hall at 895 2226.

At the School District Meeting, it was forecasted that the local school portion of the tax rate would increase by \$0.73. In addition, Warrant Article 3 increased the budget by \$16,200. This resulted in an estimated \$0.04, for a total estimated tax rate increase (school local portion) of \$0.79. It calculated to \$0.87 when setting the actual rate; with the State school portion increasing by \$0.02; making the actual cumulative school increase \$0.89.

Local School changes in the tax rate are related to the following:

- ❖ \$274,761 increase over 2007-08 – Increase due to contractual obligations
- ❖ \$16,200 High School Late Bus – Warrant Article 3
- ❖ Decreases in revenues from Building Aid, Catastrophic Aid and Local Sources

If you have specific questions about the school expenses, you can contact the Superintendent's Office, SAU #83, at 5 Hall Road Unit 1 in Fremont, at 895 6903.

AS IN ALL YEARS, THE LOCAL TAX RATES (TOWN AND LOCAL SCHOOL) ARE A DIRECT REFLECTION OF THE VOTES TAKEN BY THE VOTERS OF FREMONT AT THE ANNUAL TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS IN MARCH.

The State School tax portion increased by \$18,122, resulting in a State School tax rate increase of \$0.02 to \$2.22. This rate is based on the equalization ratio and the "cost of an adequate education" as determined by

the Department of Education based on weighted average daily membership in residence in each school district. Each school district's percentage of total is then calculated. Each percentage is then multiplied by the Town's share of the State education tax amount to allocate a portion of the state education taxes to each school district. Fremont continues to see less revenue from the State of New Hampshire for education. The difference between the adequate education for each school district and each school district's share of the state education taxes becomes the adequate education grant for each school district. The NH Legislature continues to struggle with the education tax issues, including "donor" versus "receiver" towns.

The portion of the Rockingham County budget attributable to Fremont increased by \$10,210 to a total of \$385,548. Veteran Credits stayed the same at \$87,500. Elderly and blind exemptions decreased slightly to \$1,165,000.

Current use values did not change significantly, but there is new value attributable to new homes, garages, sheds, and other property value improvements. Additions to the tax base help to offset expenditures increases and more evenly balance the tax rate.

The Tax Collector's Office at the Town Hall will be open the following dates for payment of taxes:

Thurs November 6, 2008	4:00 to 8:00 pm	Thurs November 13, 2008	4:00 to 8:00 pm
Thurs November 20, 2008	4:00 to 8:00 pm	Mon November 24, 2008	4:00 to 6:00 pm
Tues November 25, 2008	4:00 to 8:00 pm	Weds November 26, 2008	8:30 am to 12 noon
Mon December 1, 2008	2:00 to 6:00 pm	Tax bills are due December 1, 2008	

If you have questions about your assessment, please feel free to stop by the Selectmen's Office and review the records. All property assessing records are public information. You can access the information online at the Vision Appraisal website at [www.visionappraisal.com](http://www.visionappraisal.com). We send updates in several times a year to the Vision site, and you can see the most recent date of updates when you log on. The Selectmen's Office is open Monday and Friday 8:30 am to 12 noon; Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm; and Thursday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If you feel that your property is disproportionately assessed, or there are listing errors on your card, you will need to file an abatement. Our abatement information sheet is available at the Town Offices and on the town website at [www.fremont.nh.gov](http://www.fremont.nh.gov). Abatement forms are available at the Selectmen's Office, or can be downloaded from the NHBTLA website at <http://www.nh.gov/btla/forms.html>, (*Taxpayers 76:16 Abatement Application to Municipality*) as well as from the Town's website. You can also call or email the Selectmen's Office and we will send one out to you. Abatement forms are DUE no later than MARCH 1, 2009.

You can drop off tax payments with a stamped self-addressed returned envelope, and the Collector will mail out your receipt. The Selectmen's Office and Tax Collector's Office are located at the Fremont Town Hall, 295 Main Street; on the main floor.

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